



Date: August 1, 2013

To: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

From: Christopher Williams, Acting Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report, Parks and Neighborhoods Committee

Parks Legacy Plan. Seattle Parks remains on track with our Legacy Plan. More than 300 people participated in six citywide meetings in April and May, and an additional 120 people participated through email and other written comments. More than 1,750 individuals visited the project's webpage, with 541 have looked at the draft plan itself! On June 25, we released the second draft report, *Parks Legacy Plan: Draft Goals and Strategies*. This edition of the plan was revised to reflect input gathered from staff, and during the public process. The draft goal statements replaced the questions posed in the first edition of the plan. Also in June, the Citizens' Advisory Committee began meeting to review the recommendations of the Legacy Plan and public and staff comment/input. The committee is composed of two co-chairs, a representative each from the Board of Park Commissioners, Parks Foundation, and the Associated Recreation Council, and additional committee members appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Committee will:

1. Look at different funding options, including the potential use of a Metropolitan Parks District or property tax levy
2. Examine how we allocate these funds and seek a balance among funding for keeping facilities open, maintenance, and acquisition of new land and development of new facilities.

The Committee's goal will be to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on a Parks funding ballot measure that would go the public for a vote in August 2014.

Dancing Til Dusk. Downtown Parks

activation. We are in full swing with our summer programming in downtown parks. We have daily buskers in our downtown parks; our Dancing Til Dusk series remains a popular program (see photo); we are hosting a popular Outdoor Chamber Music Concert series at Freeway Park; and many of our downtown parks have seasonal art installations (see arch in photo). All of these are free and open to the public.



Salmon-Chanted Evening. Tom Douglas hosted the first of two Salmon-Chanted Evening events at Victor Steinbrueck Park at the end of June. The event invites diners to buy a \$20 ticket for freshly cooked salmon, several side dishes, a drink and dessert. The June event was sold out. Tom cooks the salmon himself and is on site to greet the crowds. His restaurants donate all the food and get their vendors to donate as well. All proceeds benefit Seattle Parks and Recreation. This is the third summer that Tom and friends have hosted the event. The first two summers of this event yielded \$30,000 to help fund a park concierge at Victor Steinbrueck. A second Salmon-Chanted Evening will be held in August.

Seafair Family Fourth at Gas Works Park. Seattle Parks and Recreation provided more support than ever to ensure a successful Fourth of July for the City. Parks crews prepped Gas Works Park with two large projects that included trimming and raking the hill, and slope mowing and trimming the cracking tower perimeter. Crews weeded and pruned shrub beds in the picnic shelter area. The tree crew pruned trees. After the big event, Seattle Parks crews were out again. They mobilized on site at 6 a.m. on July 5 and had the park cleaned and ready for a new day by mid-morning.

2012 volunteer hours. In 2012, nearly 40,000 individuals contributed 426,000 volunteer hours to Seattle Parks and Recreation. That's an equivalent value of \$9.7 million of labor. Thanks to our fantastic volunteers!

Grand to work with seniors. Lifelong Recreation has received a \$4,000 grant from the Arthritis Foundation and the National Recreation and Parks Association to initiate a "Walk With Ease" program to begin in fall of 2013. This is an in-depth program for people with arthritis helping them to move and lessen the pain associated with the disease through diet and exercise.

Parks Good Food Program studied by other municipalities. Parks has received calls from Vancouver, Canada; San Francisco, California; and Hawaii about our urban food systems program. The groups reviewed our program dubbed Good Food as a part of their research for successful practices. We provided a tour of our program sites for a representative from Canada on July 17.

Parks Featured at National Gardening Conference. The Parks Good Food program will be featured in the 2013 American Community Gardening Association conference (ACGA). In the past 3 years, the Parks Good Food program has proven itself a leader in the area of urban food systems programming. Moving forward, we will employ some new marketing strategies to increase the local, national and international exposure of this successful program. The first of these strategies is to have a strong presence at the [2013 ACGA conference](#), which will be held here in Seattle next month. Parks will provide two workshops presenting our successful practices for the establishment of municipal food system education programs. We will also provide a tour of our Community Learning Gardens for conference participants.

Opportunity Fund. Last month, the Levy Oversight Committee finalized their list of recommended Opportunity Fund projects after months of meeting and discussion. The list will be reviewed and finalized by City Council later this year. The list has projects all over the city, and include transforming an empty lot on Capitol Hill into a park, completing the Northwest Native Canoe Center at Lake Union Park, developing the Lake City Skatespot, expanding Baker Park, and furthering community stewardship of Lewis Park. A complete list of projects can be found [here](#).

Bell Street Park. Seattle Parks and Recreation is happy to announce substantial completion of the first block of Bell Street Park project. The block will be open to pedestrians today and to cars on Thursday, August 1, 2013. The entire project is on schedule and will be completed in mid-December 2013. The

community is invited to celebrate the completion of the first block at the National Night Out event on August 6, 2013 on Bell Street from 1st – 3rd Avenues.

Skateboarding classes. We have partnered again with Skate Like a Girl for a fantastic summer program that employs teens to give free skateboarding lessons to little kids at our skateboard parks. Link to story in Red Tricycle [here](#).

Mobile app for public golf courses. Premier Golf, which is the concessionaire that runs our public courses, has released a mobile app for each of the four courses. The apps are available for Android and iPhone operating systems. The app allows a golfer to book a tee time, use GPS to determine ball distance from the pin, order lunch, check the weather, keep score, and take a virtual course tour. The tour offers caddy advice about how to play that hole. The apps also function as a marketing tool. The operator can send specials to golfers who use the app. Example: \$20 green fees after 2 p.m. when your tee time is booked with the app.

Seattle golfer inducted into Hall of Fame. The Pacific Northwest Golf Association has inducted Bill Wright into its Hall of Fame. Mr. Wright, who played extensively at Jefferson Golf Course, was the first African-American to win the US Open Public Links Championship in 1949. He was honored at a dinner given at the Seattle Golf Club in the Highlands on April 26. He played at Jefferson golf course with longtime friend Elgin Baylor on Saturday afternoon April 27.

Reconfigured golf course. Jackson Park Golf Course has opened the new holes #9, #10, and #11. The course has been reconfigured to accommodate the new driving range too. While the range is not yet completed, golfers have been giving good reviews to the new holes and new layout.

Fundraiser by and for people with disabilities. The annual Movin' for Money special fund raiser event took place on Sunday May 19, at Meadowbrook Pool, Community Center and Nathan Hale High School. There were several program participants who walked laps around the track and others who swam laps in the pool. Each participant solicited pledges from friends, family and neighbors to support their efforts at the event. Several athletes took the event very seriously walking more than 20 laps around the track and over 100 laps in the pool. Following the walking and swimming portion of the event was a celebration party at the Community Center. The celebration included awards, raffle prizes, food, musical entertainment, the PCC Kid Picks "make your own trail mix", carnival games and sports trading cards. There were approximately 50 people who attended the celebration with the participants including family members, Advisory Council members, volunteers, and staff. Throughout the event donations kept pouring in; to date the total amount raised is \$8,277. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for equipment, special events, summer camp fees, and scholarships throughout the year.

Judkins Park Skatespot. The new skating facility opened to the public in June, and is being enjoyed daily by many users. Comments from skaters have been enthusiastic and neighbors have been supportive also. Seattle Parks hosted the grand opening on Saturday, June 1. Funding to develop the skatespot was made possible through the Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

Seattle Works Day. More than 225 Boeing volunteers gathered on Friday,



May 10, at Dr. Jose Rizal off-leash area and orchard donating more than 700 hours of hard work. They spread wood chips, removed about 1/3 acre of invasive plants, recreated the water drainage, and created mulch rings around approximately 50 trees. At the Dr. Jose Rizal orchard and adjacent area 24 volunteers from Washington State University Alumni Club worked on Seattle Works Day, and 18 volunteers from the Filipino American Student Association worked in the orchard on Sunday. On Seattle Works Day, Devor Barton, orchard steward and Craig Thompson coordinated the event.

Donated picnic shelter roof. On Saturday, June 8, Seattle Parks and the Associated Recreation Council held a special event to thank Sabey Construction for its \$40,000 donation of a picnic shelter roof at Georgetown Playfield. Sabey is a corporate neighbor in Georgetown and generously donated the money for the shelter roof and enlisted their subcontractors to help with the reinstallation. The roof was destroyed by arson fire last summer.

Hubbard Homestead Skate Spot. T F Sahli Construction will begin work on the Hubbard Homestead Skate Spot project on Monday, June 17, 2013. The construction duration is 100 days and work should be complete by November 20, 2013.

Discovery Park North Parking Lot Renovation. Repaving of the north parking lot will occur in the summer of 2013 in conjunction with drainage improvements largely comprised of day-lighting a creek that currently runs underneath the parking lot. Two grants were applied for and received to help augment funding. Permits have been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Highland Park Spraypark opening. The new Parks and Green Spaces Levy funded spraypark at Highland Park Playground opened on Friday, June 28. Within minutes of the fences coming down, kids swarmed the water feature. The picture here show the spraypark within about 20 minutes after it opened. For great pictures, go to [our Facebook page](#).

Specialized Adult Program Update.

- Summer programs are nearly all filled with waiting lists for most programs. Our program “Try New Things” is full with 60 people registered and 25 on the waiting list; six out of seven Summer Sightseeing trips have waiting lists, and there are only 2 spots open on the last trip scheduled on Aug. 21; all five Walking programs are full and the average length of the waiting list is 10 people.
- There are 80 participants on the Adult Softball team, and most participants have turned in their paperwork to attend the Special Olympic Tournaments coming up in August.
- There were 57 campers registered for the first Overnight Camp programs at Camp Long. The campers had a beautifully sunny weekend and enjoyed a lot of activities including tug-o-war and S'mores around the camp fire.

August	
Big Day of Play	Sat. 24
September	
Pacific Connections New Zealand Garden dedication Donor event (13) Public event (15)	Fri. 13 & Sun. 15
October	
Building 30 Celebration	12